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17. (amended) [The] A tobacco product [according to claim 15, wherein said tobacco product has not been subjected to organic solvent extraction] comprising cured non-green or yellow tobacco suitable for human consumption, in leaf form and having a content of at least one tobacco-specific nitrosamine selected from 4-(N-nitrosomethylamino)-1-(3-pyridyl)-1-butanone, N'-nitrosoanatabine and N'-nitrosoanabasine which is at least 50% by weight lower than the content of said at least one tobacco-specific nitrosamine in cured brown tobacco made from the same tobacco crop but which was cured in the absence of steps designed to reduce the content of said at least one tobacco-specific nitrosamine.

18. (amended) A tobacco product according to claim 15 or 17, wherein said at least one tobacco-specific nitrosamine content is [less than] at least about 75% by weight [of] lower than the content of said at least one tobacco-specific nitrosamine content in [conventionally] said cured brown tobacco.

19. (amended) A tobacco product according to claim 18, wherein said at least one tobacco-specific nitrosamine content is [less than] at least about 95% by weight [of] lower than the content of said at least one tobacco-specific nitrosamine content in [conventionally] said cured brown tobacco.

21. (amended) A tobacco product comprising cured non-green or yellow tobacco, substantially free of organic liquids used to extract expanded organic materials and having a combined NAT and NAB content of [less than about] 0.10 µg/g or less.

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22. (amended) A tobacco product comprising cured non-green or yellow tobacco, substantially free of organic liquids used to extract expanded organic materials and having a NNK content of [less than about] 0.05 µg/g or less.

23. (amended) A tobacco product comprising cured non-green or yellow tobacco, substantially free of organic liquids used to extract expanded organic materials and having a total TSNA content of [less than about] 0.16 µg/g or less.

24. (amended) A tobacco product comprising cured non-green or yellow tobacco, substantially free of organic liquids used to extract expanded organic materials and having a NNN level of [less than about] 0.05 µg/g or less, a combined NAT and NAB level of [less than about] 0.10 µg/g or less, and a NNK level of [less than about] 0.05 µg/g or less.

Please add new claims 29-52 as follows.

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29. A tobacco product comprising cured non-green or yellow tobacco suitable for human consumption and having a reduced nitrosamine content, wherein said content is reduced by heating uncured tobacco with convection in an environment substantially free of combustion exhaust gases while the tobacco is in a state susceptible to having formation of at least one nitrosamine arrested, for a time sufficient to reduce said nitrosamine content or to prevent formation of said at least one nitrosamine.

30. The tobacco product of claim 29 wherein said uncured tobacco is heated to a temperature of from about 100°F to about 500°F.

31. The tobacco product of claim 30 wherein said temperature is from about 100°F to about 250°F.

32. The tobacco product of claim 29 wherein said at least one nitrosamine is selected from the group consisting of N'-nitrosonornicotine, 4-(N-nitrosomethylamino)-1-(3-pyridyl)-1-butanone, N'-nitrosoanatabine and N'-nitrosoanabasine.

33. The tobacco product of claim 32 wherein the content of said at least one nitrosamine is at least about 50% by weight lower than the content of said at least one nitrosamine in cured brown tobacco made from the same tobacco crop but which was cured in the absence of steps designed to reduce nitrosamine content.

34. The tobacco product of claim 33 wherein the content of said at least one nitrosamine is at least about 75% by weight lower than the content of said at least one nitrosamine in said cured brown tobacco.

35. The tobacco product of claim 34 wherein the content of said at least one nitrosamine is at least about 90% by weight lower than the content of said at least one nitrosamine in said cured brown tobacco.

36. The tobacco product of claim 35 wherein the content of said at least one nitrosamine is at least about 95% by weight lower than the content of said at least one nitrosamine in said cured brown tobacco.

37. The tobacco product of claim 29 which has a nicotine content not less than about a normal nicotine content for Virginia flue tobacco.

38. The tobacco product of claim 29 which is substantially free of organic solvent used to extract expanded organic materials.

39. The tobacco product of claim 29, which is a product selected from the group consisting of cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, snuff, and tobacco-containing gum and lozenges.

40. A tobacco product comprising cured non-green or yellow tobacco suitable for human consumption and having a reduced nitrosamine content, wherein said content is reduced by heating uncured tobacco with convection in a substantially non-anaerobic environment while the tobacco is in a state susceptible to having formation of at least one nitrosamine arrested, for a time sufficient to reduce said nitrosamine content or to prevent formation of said at least one nitrosamine.

41. The tobacco product of claim 40 wherein said uncured tobacco is heated to a temperature of from about 100°F to about 500°F.

42. The tobacco product of claim 41 wherein said temperature is from about 100°F to about 250°F.

43. The tobacco product of claim 40 wherein said at least one nitrosamine is selected from the group consisting of N'-nitrosanornicotine, 4-(N-nitrosomethylamino)-1-(3-pyridyl)-1-butanone, N'-nitrosoanatabine and N'-nitrosoanabasine.

44. The tobacco product of claim 43 wherein the content of said at least one nitrosamine is at least about 50% by weight lower than the content of said at least one nitrosamine in cured brown tobacco made from the same tobacco crop but which was cured in the absence of steps designed to reduce nitrosamine content.

45. The tobacco product of claim 44 wherein the content of said at least one nitrosamine is at least about 75% by weight lower than the content of said at least one nitrosamine in said cured brown tobacco.

46. The tobacco product of claim 45 wherein the content of said at least one nitrosamine is at least about 90% by weight lower than the content of said at least one nitrosamine in said cured brown tobacco.

47. The tobacco product of claim 46 wherein the content of said at least one nitrosamine is at least about 95% by weight lower than the content of said at least one nitrosamine in said cured brown tobacco.

48. The tobacco product of claim 40 which has a nicotine content not less than about a normal nicotine content for Virginia flue tobacco.